

Community-Based Job Training Grants

University of Alaska -- Fairbanks



Grantee: University of Alaska -- Fairbanks

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Employment Security Division; College of Rural and Community Development Campuses (Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Northwest, Chukchi); Dillingham City Schools; Bering Strait School District; Northwest Arctic Borough School District; Nome Public Schools; Yukon Kuskokwim Health Cooperative; Council of Tribal Athabascan Governments; Bristol Bay Health Corporation; Norton Sound Health Corporation; Eastern Aleutian Tribes; Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center.

Grant Amount: \$1,858,528

Leveraged Amount: \$477,586

Location of Grant Activities: Alaska

Challenge: Healthcare jobs in Alaska have high vacancy rates. Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) have a vacancy rate in rural areas of 12%. This and other health worker shortages are due to three factors: 1) a lack of qualified health education instructors willing to live and teach in rural Alaska; 2) ill-defined allied health educational pathways; and 3) poorly integrated workforce and educational assessment and support.

Addressing the Challenge: The Rural Alaska Health Education and Training (HEAT) Project will build the capacity of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks to train incumbent and entry-level workers living in rural Alaska. Candidates -- primarily Alaska Natives -- will receive training for billing/coding and healthcare assistant jobs. This will be done by increasing the number of articulated allied health courses delivered through distance learning and itinerant clinical instructors who can travel to regional campuses. The program will create pathways to health careers that allow students to earn industry-accepted endorsements and certificates.

Projected Outcomes:

- Enroll at least 300 students in HEAT Pathway courses
- At least 90 HEAT participants will receive national or state certificates for EMT, Personal Care Attendant and Certified Nursing Assistant, 18 for Dental or Medical Assistant , and 15 for Administrative Healthcare
- At least 75 HEAT participants will receive endorsements in allied health positions HEAT participants employed full-time year-round will attain an average salary of \$32,000
- 75% of incumbent workers will receive a promotion or wage gain as a result of training